Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 06:00 on Friday 19 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Saturday 20 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Friday 19 Feb 2021 at 03:30

Confidence: High for generally unsettled and seasonally mild, but confidence lowering for the extent and timing of the worst conditions, particularly from the weekend.

Headline for Friday 19 Feb 2021: Dull with rain, heavy at times.

Mountain weather hazards on Friday 19 Feb 2021

Blizzards
No Likelihood

Heavy Snow
Low Likelihood

Storm force winds
Medium Likelihood

Gales
High Likelihood

Severe chill effect
High Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
High Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m					
Time					
06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain	Heavy Rain
Precipitation probability					
40%	90%	>95%	>95%	>95%	>95%

Forecast for Friday 19 Feb 2021

Weather: A dull, overcast day with outbreaks of rain, heavy at times, and starting off as snow above 700m. Rain turning increasingly light and patchy through the evening, with chance of some clear spells in the west towards midnight.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: By day virtually nil

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, less in cloud with bases extensive from 500-750m.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
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Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Friday 19 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph) Wind Direction (blowing from)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	55/66 S	59/71 S	53/67 S	49/63 S	48/62 S	44/57 S	34/45 S
600	46/58 S	47/60 S	40/57 S	37/53 S	36/52 S	33/48 S	27/39 S
300	14/43 S	15/45 S	16/45 S	14/42 S	15/42 S	14/38 S	12/31 S
Valley	10/35 S	12/40 S	17/43 S	17/41 S	17/40 S	16/37 S	13/29 S

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)						
	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-1/-11	0/-10	2/-7	4/-4	4/-4	4/-3	4/-3
600	1/-8	2/-6	4/-4	5/-2	6/-1	6/-0	6/0
300	3/-2	4/-1	5/1	7/3	7/4	7/4	7/4
Valley	5/1	6/2	7/4	8/5	9/6	9/6	9/6
Freezing Level*	800m	1300m	1800m	1800m	1900m	1800m	1600m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Severe summit gales, perhaps reaching storm force at times, bringing severe wind chill at height.

Forecast for Saturday 20 Feb 2021

Weather: Detail uncertain, but best chance of dry and perhaps bright conditions early morning on an otherwise cloudy day with occasional rain, which again turns heavy at times. Severe wind chill at height.

Maximum wind: South mean 35-40 mph with gusts reaching 60mph at times across most exposed ridges and summits.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: 15%

Visibility: Moderate or poor in rain, less in cloud with bases quite extensive from 500-750m.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Plus 5 Celsius rising 11 Celsius during the afternoon
At 800m: Plus 3-5 Celsius
Freezing level: Above summits

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Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Thursday 18 February Location: Helvellyn summit at 12:20 Temperature: minus 0.2 degC. Maximum wind speed 41.7mph. Wind chill: minus 9.7degC. Average wind speed: 24.6mph

Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally to where they live. A day of challenging conditions on the Lake District fells with wintery squalls and heavy rain blowing through on strong winds. The freezing level was around 900m and below this the remaining snowpack was continuing to thaw. Some routes such as the Swirls path on Helvellyn can now be climbed without setting foot on snow until you get to the summit plateau. However Striding & Swirral Edge and other N through E aspects are still in full winter condition with significant amounts of snow still present down to Red Tarn at 700m. The exits to both Edges consists of steep unavoidable snow above a significant drop. It would only take a small drop in temperature for these to refreeze giving very serious conditions underfoot. Where undisturbed the snow is generally soft and sugary but where it has been compressed by walkers feet or is overlying drainage lines then there are large areas of sheet ice and hard snow to contend with. Above 850m there was a sprinkling of new snow but the main hazards on the plateau were verglas, rime ice, areas of sheet ice and neve. Crampons and ice axes are still essential for all but the flattest of routes on the high summits and should be carried by anyone venturing above the snowline. Microspikes and trekking poles are also very useful in preventing slips and trips There are cornices above, predominantly but not exclusively, N and E facing slopes. These have slumped and are thawing in the warmer temperatures. Therefore, although reduced in size, they are extremely unstable, so please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise. Despite the milder temperatures, the summit windchill remains well below freezing so full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Goggles were almost essential today for dealing with the snow, sleet and graphal being driven through on strong winds. Please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back.

Issued at: 03:30 on Fri 19 Feb 2021

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